

# Naval Reserve Unit Builds Bonds with JROTC Program

## Bulletin Staff Report

Cadets from Caney Creek High School's Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program had the opportunity to experience the Navy close-up and personal during a visit to Inshore Boat Unit 15 this March. Over fifty NJROTC cadets from Conroe, Texas spent the afternoon learning about the unit's coastal warfare mission and speaking one on one with sailors about various opportunities offered by joining the Navy. The highlights of the trip for each cadet was a thrilling and wet ride in Corpus Christi Bay on one of the unit's rigid hull inflatable patrol boats and a rough ride on the Humvee. Spearheading the visit was reservist Petty Officer 2nd Class Frank Bravo who is also a teacher at Hauke High School.

The feedback received from the cadets about their visit was fantastic, but they seemed to make just as big an impression on many of IBU 15's sailors. SK2 Gary L. Crook, from Cleveland, Texas remarked, "Interacting with the JROTC kids was great. They were so excited to rub shoulders with real sailors and listen to our real world experiences and advice on Naval service. Many were from broken homes or had it rough growing up. They loved hearing about the discipline and comradeship of the Navy, the life long friendships you make and the brotherhood of shipmates. I was impressed how many were going to enlist, but even more so the ones who wanted to pursue college and go on to be Naval Officers. They will be a great asset, I hope they keep their dreams alive, and

was glad we as reservists could fan that flame, it was very rewarding."

The primary goal of Navy Junior ROTC is to teach citizenship, and provide a challenging and fun vehicle through which young men and women can have hands on leadership opportunities while in high school. This in turn will better prepare them for college, the work force, and life in general. Historically, many cadets do enter the military.

Caney Creek High School established its NJROTC unit August 2000 and currently has 125 cadets, grades 9 through 12. Cadets maintain military haircuts and grooming, wear a uniform once a week, learn military drill, and maintain physical fitness standards. The classroom academics cover a wide variety of topics starting with the history, customs, and traditions the naval service. Some of the many other subject areas studied include government; ethics; naval engineering & electronics; leadership; geography; oceanography; current events; meteorology; astronomy; international law; marksmanship; and navigation.

"These young leaders are pumped up and very capable of achieving their goals for this year. They are aggressively raising the funds needed to take more orientation trips such as this year's awesome Spring break trip to Naval Air Station Corpus Christi to work with Inshore Boat Unit 15," noted Commander Peter Whipple, USN (retired), Caney Creek's Senior Naval Science Instructor.

Readers may visit Inshore Boat Unit 15's web site at [www.ibu15.navy.mil](http://www.ibu15.navy.mil). For more information on Caney Creek NJROTC call 936-231-3330. □